

Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10 /131 W
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R 061936Z JUN 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 144

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJ: INFORMAL MEETING OF DC REPS TO DISCUSS JUNE 16 TROPICAL
PRODUCTS MEETING - MTN

1. CANADA HOSTED INFORMAL MEETING OF DC REPS (US, EC, NORDICS, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, SWITZERLAND) JUNE 5, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS MEETING WEEK OF JUNE 16. CANADA OPENED WITH LIST OF SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS AS YET UNRESOLVED IN DC CAPITALS. THESE INCLUDED DEGREE AND FORM OF RECIPROCITY TO BE ASKED OF LDC'S, RELATION OF WORK IN TP GROUP TO TARIFF AND NTM NEGOTIATIONS, RESPONSE TO LDC REQUESTS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND BINDING OF GSP OR
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OTHER TARIFF PREFERENCES, DEFINITION OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS TO BE

INCLUDED IN EARLY PACKAGE, AND POTENTIAL NEED TO BALANCE TP PACKAGE AMONG DC'S BEFORE CONCLUSION.

2. WORKING DOCUMENTS MTN/W/8 "PROCEDURES IN DILLON AND KENNEDY ROUNDS" AND MTN/TP/W/6 "CIRCULATION OF INITIAL OFFERS" WERE BOTH NOTED AS TENDING TO FOCUS JUNE MEETING ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS. ALL REPS PRESENT AGREED THIS DESIRABLE.

3. ALL DELS PRESENT INDICATED HAVING RECEIVED 9-13 REQUEST LISTS FROM GENERALLY SAME GROUP OF LDC'S (ASEAN COUNTRIES, INDIA, SRI LANKA, BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, NIGERIA, GHANA, IVORY COAST, JAMAICA).

4. CONSENSUS DEVELOPED THAT QUOTE SPECIAL AND PRIORITY TREATMENT UNQUOTE COULD BE MOST ACCEPTABLY DEFINED TO DC'S IN TERMS OF TIMING. NOTABLY NO DC ADVANCED ANY OTHER APPROACH TO QUOTE SPECIAL AND PRIORITY UNQUOTE. DC'S ALSO GENERALLY AGREED THAT NEXT STAGE SHOULD CONSIST OF BILATERAL TALKS IN WHICH DC'S WOULD GIVE QUOTE PRELIMINARY SUBSTANTIVE REACTIONS UNQUOTE TO LDC REQUESTS. THIS COULD INCLUDE CLARIFICATIONS, DISCUSSIONS OF NEED FOR BALANCE AND RECIPROCITY, AND GENERAL INDICATION OF WHAT EACH DC PREPARED TO DO, BUT NOT INCLUDE FORMAL OFFERS. JAPAN PARTICULARLY RELUCTANT TO GET INTO FORMAL OFFERS UNTIL GENERAL TARIFF FORMULA AGREED. HOWEVER, SOME DC'S LESS RELUCTANT TO TABLE OFFERS (SEE BELOW). PROCEDURE FOR CIRCULATION OF OFFERS OR ALTERNATIVE TECHNIQUE FOR MOVING NEGOTIATIONS TO NEXT STAGE SHOULD NOT BE DECIDED UNTIL BILATERAL PROCESS COMPLETED PRESUMABLY LATE FALL. PROCEDURES FOR NEXT PHASE WOULD CONSTITUTE TOPIC FOR NEXT T.P. MEETING. U.S. SUGGESTED ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE TO MOVE ON TO "PLURILATERAL" CONSULTATIONS AMONG INTERESTED DC'S AND LDCS ON LINE-BY-LINE BASIS. GROUP INTERESTED, BUT DOES NOT WISH IDEA RAISED UNTIL OTHER BROAD ISSUES HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED.

5. MAJOR POINT OF DISAGREEMENT AROSE OVER WHETHER OFFERS TO LDC'S SHOULD BE IN FORM OF UNBOUND GSP OR BOUND MFN CUTS. EC MADE ARGUMENT THAT MAJOR PART OF ITS OFFER WOULD BE GSP THEREBY AVOIDING COMPLETE EROSION OF ACP PREFERENCES. TP OFFERS WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED WITH ACP COUNTRIES FIRST. MOREOVER GSP AVOIDS PROBLEM OF RECIPROCITY AND EC INTENDS IMPROVEMENT ANYWAY. ALSO EC DOES NOT INTEND NEGOTIATE AGRICULTURE UNDER GENERAL TARIFFS FORMULA, THUS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED THAT TARIFF NEGOTIATING PLAN BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREED BEFORE OFFERS MADE. NORDIC COUNTRIES GENERALLY AGREED WITH EC APPROACH OF MAKING OFFERS BY WAY OF UNBOUND GSP. JAPAN ALSO WOULD CONSIDER IMPROVEMENT OF GSP AS PART OF ITS OFFER.

6. AUSTRALIA STATED COULD NOT REPEAT NOT AGREE TO PROCEDURES ALLOWING GSP OFFERS. AUSTRALIA RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING GSP AS STATED IN TOKYO DECLARATION, BUT CONSIDERS DETAILS OF GSP AS NOT REPEAT NOT RELEVANT TO MTN AND NOT REPEAT

NOT NEGOTIABLE. IF GSP EXTENDED IN AGRICULTURE, AUSTRALIA WOULD SAY THAT SUCH CONCESSION AFFECTS ITS RECIPROCITY VIS-A-VIS DC'S MAKING OFFER. IN AUSTRALIAN VIEW, EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON DETERMINING WHICH PRODUCTS STRICTLY TROPICAL AND OF SOLE INTEREST TO LDC'S. THEN DC'S SHOULD DETERMINE ON WHICH PRODUCTS THEY CAN OFFER BOUND MFN REDUCTIONS. BOTH GSP AND CONCESSIONS ON PRODUCTS AFFECTING DC'S BROADER THAN ROLE OF TP GROUP AND NEED BE CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE.

7. U.S. AND CANADA BASICALLY SUPPORTED AUSTRALIA THAT QUESTION OF IMPROVING OR EXTENDING GSP OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY AND BROADER THAN TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND DISCUSSION OF ISSUE WOULD DERAIL TP GROUP FROM PRESENT MOMENTUM IN MOVING PRAGMATICALLY TOWARD EARLY PACKAGE.MCNAMARA

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